

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP  
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government  
100 Parliament St  
London, SW1A 2BQ

12 July 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your new role as Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. As the UK's National Strategic Advisor on Design we stand ready to support you. We will harness the strength of our 250 leading experts across the built environment design disciplines behind your housing priorities.

Your new government marks an exciting moment of change, and the start of a new era of UK housebuilding. Solving Britain's housing crisis is an urgent challenge and critical strategic opportunity.

Experts across the built environment industries have vital experience which the new government can leverage to deliver on your Manifesto commitment to build "more high-quality, well-designed, and sustainable homes and creating places that increase climate resilience and promote nature recovery".

Creating 1.5 million homes within legal climate commitments is a critical design challenge.

By placing quality at the heart of its housebuilding programme, ensuring low carbon construction of new homes and maximising the upgrading of existing buildings, the government has a unique opportunity to unlock unprecedented growth in sustainable housing development and refurbishment, while keeping within the UK's carbon budgets.

Great design is how we will not only build the homes we need but ensure they are fit for purpose and long lasting while regenerating our communities and the environment.

As the National Strategic Adviser on Design, the Design Council has supported successive governments since our inception. We have established the Design Council Homes Taskforce (DCHT), so we can act as a trusted partner to your government on housing, development and refurbishment, and climate.

We hope we will be able to meet in the coming weeks to discuss how we can work with you to deliver the homes Britain needs.

Your Sincerely,

**The Design Council Homes Taskforce**

Amandeep Kalra, Hanif Kara OBE, Louise Wyman, Minnie Moll, Paul Monaghan, Phineas Harper, Sadie Morgan OBE, Sunand Prasad OBE, Yolande Barnes.

**Amandeep Kalra.** Associate Director at Be First (LB Barking & Dagenham's regeneration company), working at the intersection of public and private practice. He is a trustee at the charity London Neighbourhood Scholarship. He is a chair of the Croydon, Hackney, and Kingston Design Review Panels and a panel member for Bromley and Harrow. He sits on the NLA's Retrofit & Heritage expert panel. Amandeep has grown up in social housing, where his passion for delivering equitable housing for all was ignited.

**Professor Hanif Kara OBE.** Co-founder and design-director of the interdisciplinary engineering practice AKT II in London, where he leads the firm's 350 designers and technicians. His team has received over 350 design awards including four RIBA Stirling Prize wins (the UK's highest architectural honour). Hanif is a professor in practice of architectural technology at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, a member of the scientific review panel for the ETH Zürich's digital fabrication laboratory, a senior advisor to the Aga Khan Development Network, member of the UK's National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) Design Group, and trustee of the Zaha Hadid Foundation.

**Louise Wyman.** Executive Director Strategic Development at CBRE based in Birmingham. Previously Louise was Strategic Director Growth & Development at Manchester City Council, design and inclusive growth lead at West Midlands Combined Authority, and Director of Strategy & Engagement at Homes England, she was part of the team that established the Government's housing agency. She was a member of the Planning Committee for London Legacy Development Corporation and is currently a member of the National Infrastructure Commission Design Group.

**Minnie Moll.** Chief Executive of the Design Council. She has introduced and led the Design for Planet mission to help address the climate crisis. She was Managing Partner of HHCL, the 'Advertising Agency of the decade'; Global Marketing Director of Innovation company ?What If!; Joint Chief Executive of the East of England Co-op, who won Alzheimer's Society 'Large Business of the Year' in 2016; and HRH Prince Charles' as his Ambassador for Responsible Business in the East of England. She has passion for place making and has been a Board member of two Business Improvement Districts and a Town Deals Board.

**Paul Monaghan.** A founding director of Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, an architecture practice established in 1989. His work includes the reinvention of Television Centre; New Scotland Yard; the new Tower Hamlets Town Hall in Whitechapel; and the RIBA Stirling Prize winning Burntwood School. He is the Liverpool City Region Design Champion, a member of the Office for Place Advisory Board, a RIBA Client Design Advisor, and visiting professor at the Bartlett School of Architecture and the University of Sheffield, from which he received a Doctorate of Letters in 2018.

**Phineas Harper.** Is a journalist and curator. They are a columnist for Dezeen and opinion writer at the Guardian. They were Chief Executive of charity Open City until 2024, Deputy Director of the Architecture Foundation, Deputy Editor at the Architectural Review, Chief Curator at the Oslo Architecture Triennale. They currently sit on the board of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Society and the advisory board for the University of Central Lancashire.

**Professor Sadie Morgan OBE.** Founding director at the Stirling prize-winning architecture practice, dRMM. She became the youngest president of the Architectural Association in 2013, and in 2016, was appointed Professor at the University of Westminster and awarded an honorary doctorate from London South Bank University. In 2017 she was named New Londoner of the Year by the NLA for her work championing the importance of design at the highest political level. Sadie is a board member of Homes England, Mayor's Design Advocate for Sadiq Khan, Non-Executive Director of the Major Projects Association, Commissioner on the National Infrastructure Commission. Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission design group, and Design Chair for High Speed Two (HS2) reporting directly to the Secretary of State.

**Sunand Prasad OBE.** Co-founded Penoyre & Prasad. While President of the RIBA from 2007 to 2009, Sunand was voted one of the Independent's top 100 environmentalists for his work in 'greening the RIBA'. He has served in several key advisory and policy positions, and has regularly chaired Design Review Panels for high profile projects around the UK. He is a London Mayor's Design Advocate, Chair of the UKGBC Board of Trustees, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Journal of Architecture and of Article 25, the humanitarian architecture charity, and is a specialist advisor to support specific aspects of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.

**Professor Yolande Barnes.** Yolande is professor of Real Estate at UCL having spent most of a 36 year career in industry, examining and analysing a wide variety of global real estate markets. Yolande is an NED and on the advisory boards for a variety of organisations and Commissions. She is an Honorary Fellow of RIBA, a Fellow of The Society of Property Researchers, Academician at the Academy of Urbanism, Patron of Create Streets and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.